consumer goods are now under the OGL and are being imported freely and are therefore, available in the domestic market, all over the country.

(c) The officers of Goa Commissionerate and DRI are ever vigilant and alert to thwart any attempt of smuggling at the Goa Airport.

Smuggling of Mobile Phones

219. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs Air Intelligence Unit has arrested five Delhi based passengers for smuggling 115 mobile phones worth Rs. 6.3 lakh at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai on 28th May 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The officers of Air Intelligence Unit, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai have seized 115 mobile phones collectively valued at Rs. 6.30 lakhs in two separate cases, from 5 lady passengers on 27.5.2000, who had arrived at Mumbai as domestic passenger from Delhi. In both the cases, mobile phones were found on the person, ingeniously concealed in specially made white coloured "pyjamas" worn by the lady passengers, under their saris/salwars.

(c) The mobile phones recovered have been seized under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962. All the five lady passengers were also arrested, and produced before the judicial magistrate and have since been enlarged on bail.

Decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves

†220. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the foreign exchange reserve in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any steps to earn more foreign exchange; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, in what manner Government propose to meet the shortfall in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) There has been some decline in India's foreign exchange reserves since April 2000.

(b) and (c) The current level of foreign exchange reserves is, however, considered adequate, judged from our need for essential imports and debt service payments liability. The foreign exchange reserves position is, nevertheless, monitored constantly and measures are taken, as and when necessary, to increase exports, contain growth of imports, sustain the buoyancy in invisible receipts and encourage non-debt creating capital flows, especially foreign direct investments with a view to improving the reserve position and making the situation sustainable.

Unrecovered Amount of Taxes

†221. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the outstanding amount of unrecovered taxes has been increasing continuously during the last few years;

(b) if not, the outstanding amount during March 1998, March, 1999 and March 2000; and

(c) the details of such sectors belonging to the industries and individual against whom the amount was outstanding together with the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the total amount of tax outstanding on account of income tax, corporation tax, custom duty and central excise duty as on 31.3.98, 31.3.1999, 31.3.2000, were Rs. 47888 crore, Rs. 52617 crore and Rs. 62392 crore respectively.

(c) The details of top 100 tax assessees is given in the statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.